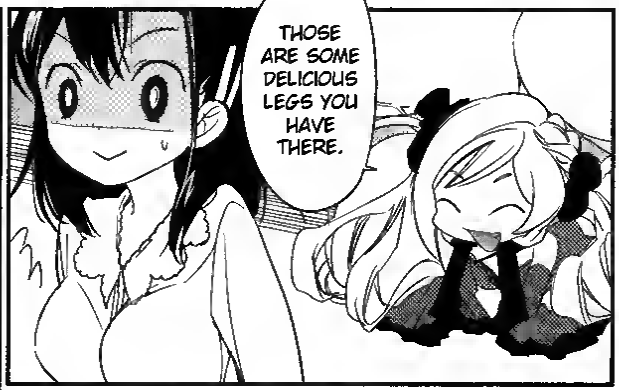
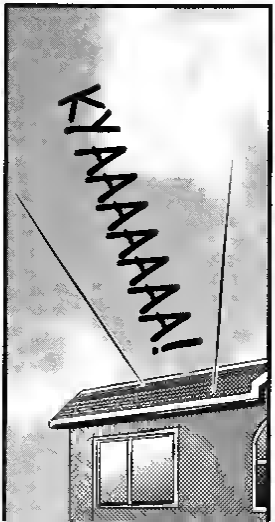
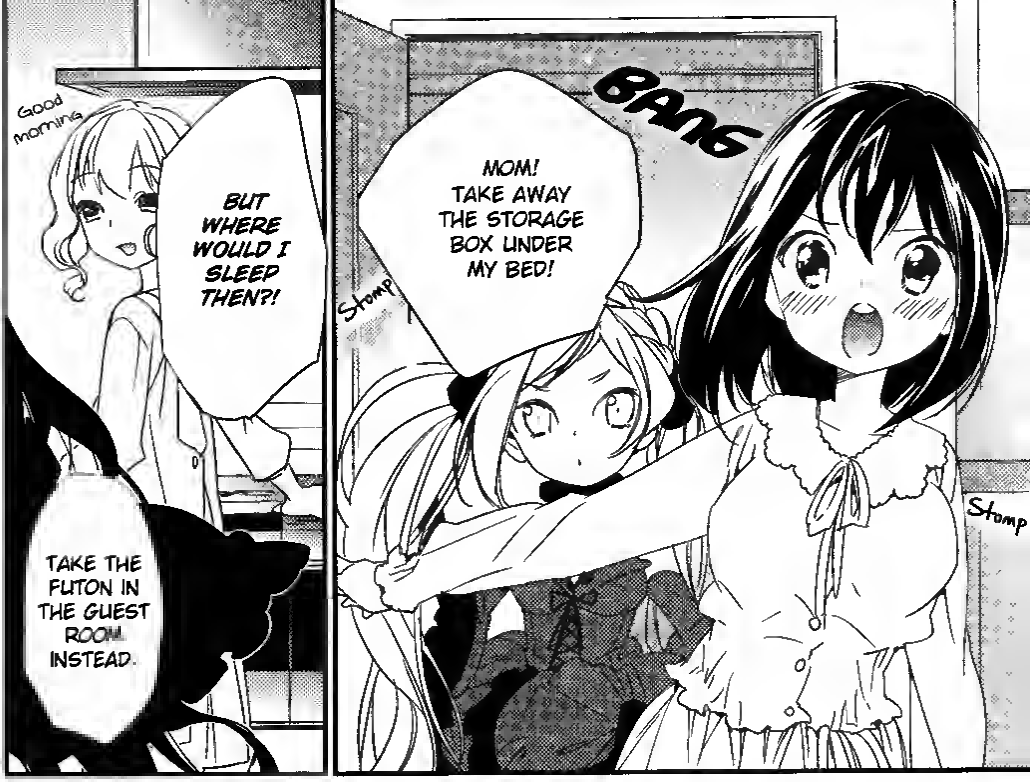
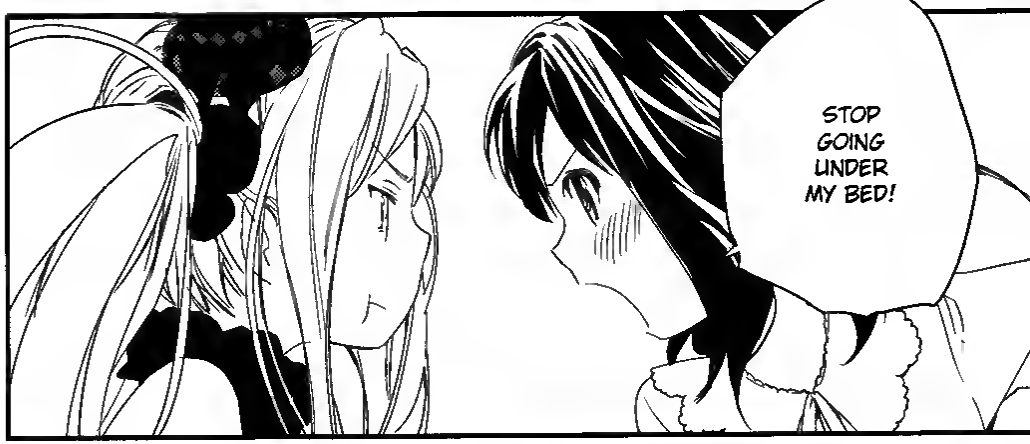
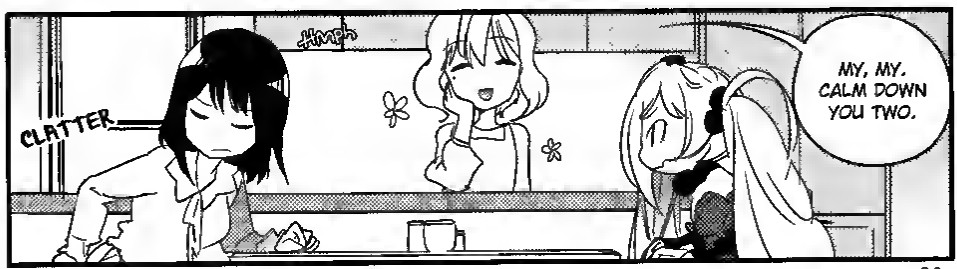
Another Kiss
Yurihara Aki


THOSE ARE SOME DELICIOUS LEGS YOU HAVE THERE.

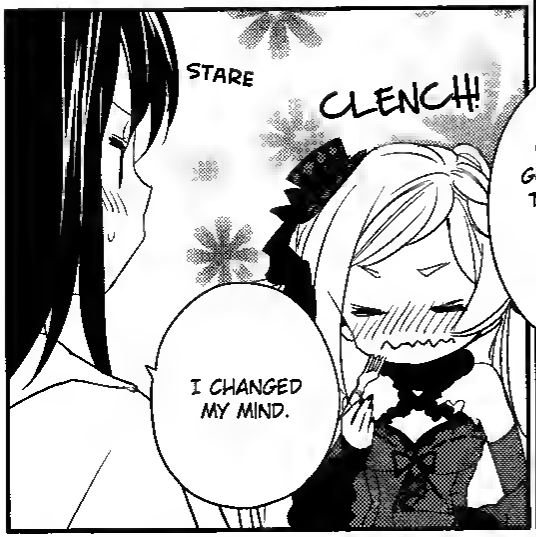

KYAAAAAAA!

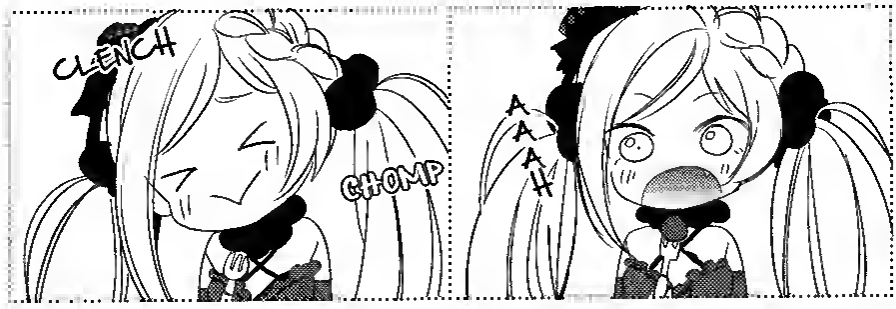

Good morning
BUT WHERE WOULD I SLEEP THEN?!
TAKE THE FUTON IN THE GUEST ROOM INSTEAD.
BANG
MOM! TAKE AWAY THE STORAGE BOX UNDER MY BED!
Stomp
Stomp


STOP GOING UNDER MY BED!


CLATTER
Hmph
MY, MY. CALM DOWN YOU TWO.

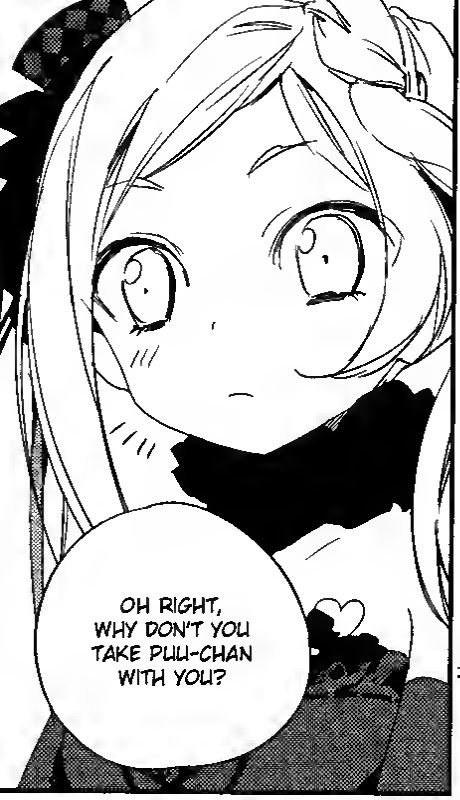
TA-DA!
First off is the "Maiden of the Rose Garden" incident.
(At least that's what I'm calling it.)
Then the next thing I knew when I returned home, is that this arrogant vampire...
Why?!
Thank you, Mama-san!
GLOMP
You've had it tough even though you're so young, haven't you? It's all right, stay as long as you like.
...had moved into my house.

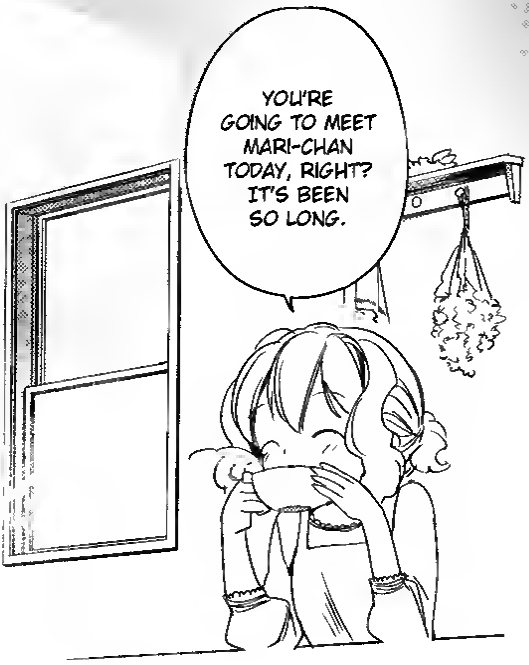


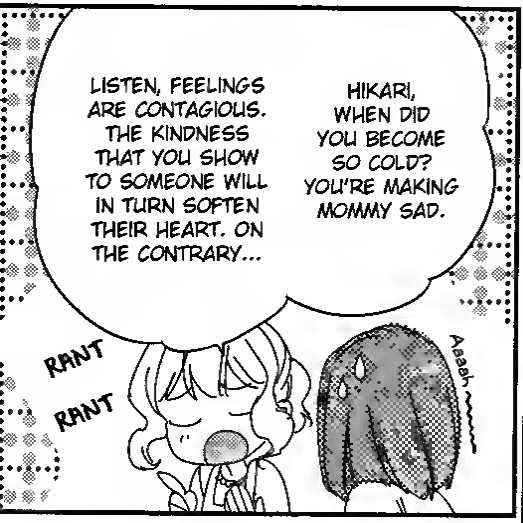


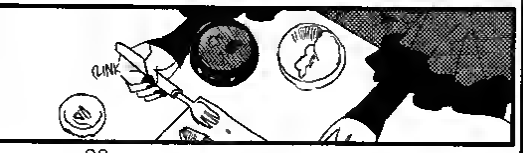
おもな人物紹介

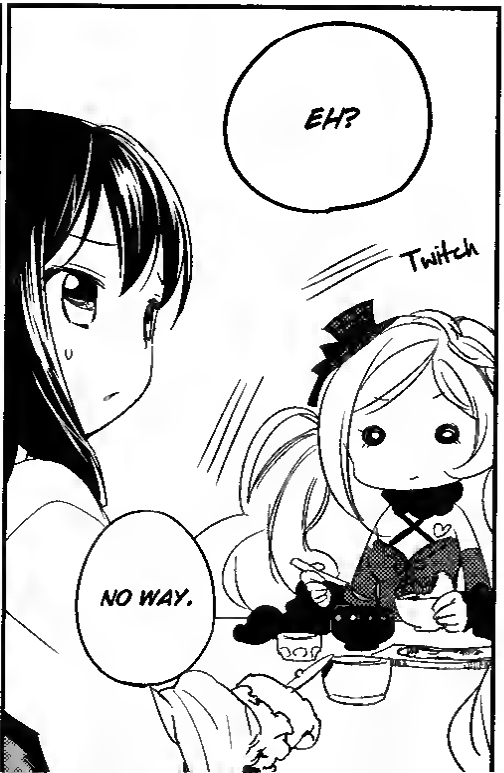
HIKARI
An extremely ordinary high school girl.


OH RIGHT, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE PUU-CHAN WITH YOU?


YOU'RE GOING TO MEET MARI-CHAN TODAY, RIGHT? IT'S BEEN SO LONG.


LISTEN, FEELINGS ARE CONTAGIOUS. THE KINDNESS THAT YOU SHOW TO SOMEONE WILL IN TURN SOFTEN THEIR HEART. ON THE CONTRARY...
HIKARI, WHEN DID YOU BECOME SO COLD? YOU'RE MAKING MOMMY SAD.
RANT
RANT
Aaaah~


CLINK


EH?
Twitch
NO WAY.

APRIL, I'LL LEND YOU MY CLOTHES, SO PLEASE GET CHANGED.
Flutter
Flutter
OKAY, I GET IT! I'LL TAKE HER WITH ME!
CLATTER
おもな人物紹介
APRIL
A vampire currently free-loading at Hikari's house.
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO PUT ON SUCH A FRUGAL THING?
FLIP
TCH...!

SLAM
BANG
Clink
Clink
Whoosh
Hmph
I'M LEAVING!
Clatter
Oh my!
HIKARI!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HEY, HIKARI!

SULK
GEEZ, DON'T WALK SO CLOSE TO ME!
OH MY. ISN'T THAT AMANO-SAN?
AND WHO IS THAT GIRL WITH HER? SHE'S PRETTY CUTE.
RIN, THE TRAIN'S HERE.
WHOOPS.

AT LEAST TAKE OFF THAT WEIRD CLOAK BEFORE MARIKO COMES.
Tug
Tug

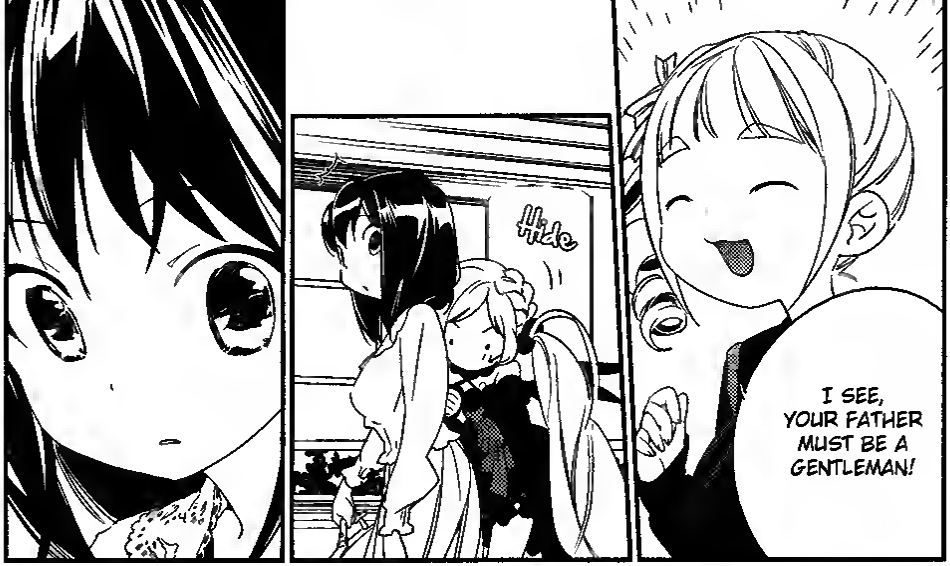
WHO IS THIS "MARIKO" TO YOU?
Glance
Glance
MY FRIEND FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL.

HIKARI!
FRIE...
MARIKO!

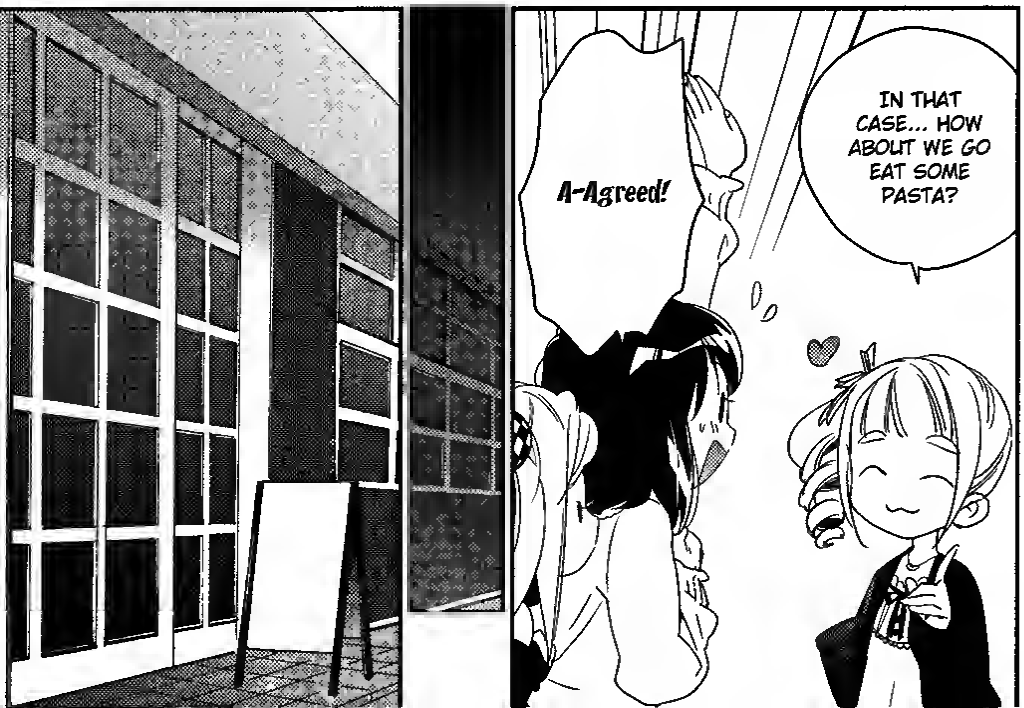
!!
Grab
GIMME THAT!
And take off that cloak!
Yahoo
Bright
APRIL?
Stagger

GRIP
WAIT! APRIL?!
FLOP
I'M SORRY, MARIKO!
I DON'T MIND!
YOU SURPRISED ME, BRINGING SUCH A LOVELY GIRL WITH YOU.
FUFU, THOSE CLOTHES ARE CUTE.

ARE THESE THE KIND OF THINGS THEY WEAR IN HARAJUKU?
HOP
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....AH
YEAH
Ah, I see it.
SO IT HAS A ROSE MOTIF,
AND YOU'RE WEARING A CLOAK OVER IT?
Is that so?
I MODIFIED IT FROM AN IVERNESS COAT.


Hide
I SEE, YOUR FATHER MUST BE A GENTLEMAN!

JU
MP
EH? UH...
I'M HUNGRY.
whisper


A-Agreed!
IN THAT CASE... HOW ABOUT WE GO EAT SOME PASTA?

HEY, READ IT.
GEEZ,
BACON, TUNA, SHRIMP, NATTO...
THIS! THIS! I WANT THIS!
Garlic Pasta with Mushrooms and Bacon
VAMPIRES THESE DAYS CAN EAT GARLIC...?

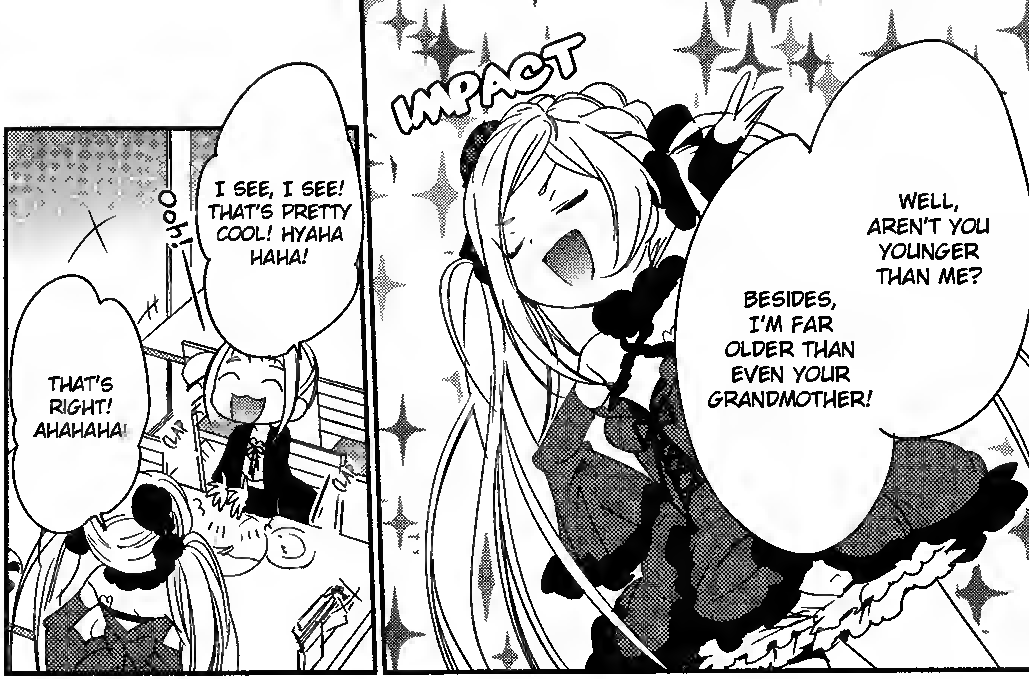
Don't sweat it!
Even though you ate so much before we left...
YEAH, THERE ARE A FEW PEOPLE I GET ALONG WITH.
HOW'S HIGH SCHOOL? YOU HAVE TO BE MORE INDEPENDENT IN YOUR CLASSES NOW, RIGHT?
DID YOU MAKE ANY FRIENDS?
YUP, YUP. YOU TOLD ME BEFORE.
YOU KNOW THAT GIRL WHO CALLED OUT TO ME DURING THE BRIEFING BEFORE THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY?
SHE WAS SO COOL AND LOVELY, AND SHE WAS WITH A CUTE GIRL WHO ALMOST SEEMED LIKE A DOLL.
I...
DID THEY LIVE CLOSE BY DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL TOO?

I SEE
I SEE
B-BUT I HAVE THEIR EMAIL ADRESSES AND NUMBERS!
I DON'T KNOW...
fret fret
AREN'T THERE ANY DRIED PLUMS?
THEY HAVE SHISO, BUT NO PLUMS.
YOU LIKE THOSE?
THERE ARE SPECIALTY SHOPS THAT SELL DRIED PLUMS. WE CAN GO THERE FOR DESSERT LATER.
LET'S HURRY UP AND GO THEN!

I never knew...
...that she can have such a friendly smile...
APRIL-CHAN, ARE YOU A MIDDLE SCHOOLER?
?
I'M A NOBLE VAMPIRE.
GULP
!!

Fuha!
HYAHAHAHA. YOU'RE SUCH AN ELEGANT LADY.
!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "ELEGANT"?
IT MEANS YOU'RE SPARKLING!
Munch
Munch
Munch
SPARKLING?
Oo...
WELL, MORE OR LESS.
Please stop...
YOU SURE CAN EAT! SO VAMPIRES CAN DIGEST HUMAN'S FOOD?
WELL-
MNPH
GEEZ, APRIL, YOU HAVE TO WIPE YOUR MOUTH! EHEHEH...

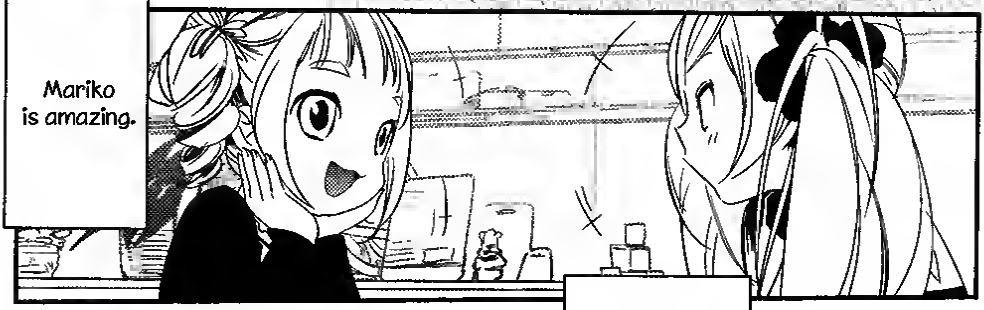
IF I DON'T GET ENOUGH NUTRIENTS FROM NORMAL FOOD, MY CELLS WILL START DYING.
BUT I ALSO NEED HUMANS' ESSENCE FOR A BALANCED DIET.
SINCE YOU'RE EATING SO ENERGETICALLY NOW, YOU MUST BE FINE, RIGHT?
Mm-hmm
ARE YOU NO GOOD WITH SUNLIGHT?
Being a vampire and all.
I HATE STRONG SUNLIGHT. IT MAKES MY EYES HURT.
AH, YOU'RE WEAK TO ULTRAVIOLET RAYS THEN? I GUESS YOU'RE PRETTY PALE.
I SEE, I SEE.
YOU HAVE QUITE A BIT TO DEAL WITH EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SO YOUNG.

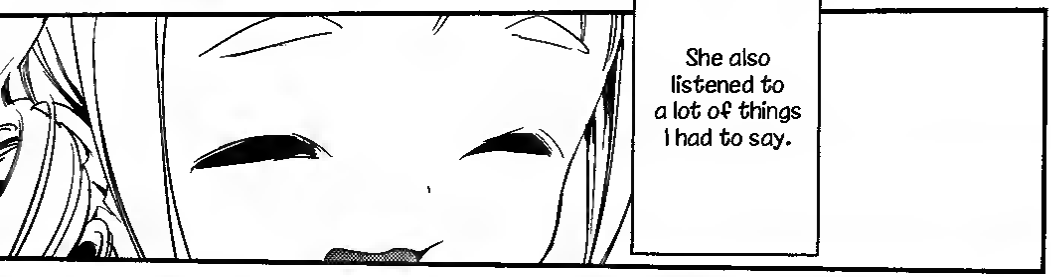

I SEE, I SEE! THAT'S PRETTY COOL! HYAHA HAHA!
OOH!
THAT'S RIGHT! AHAHAHA!
IMPACT
WELL, AREN'T YOU YOUNGER THAN ME?
BESIDES, I'M FAR OLDER THAN EVEN YOUR GRANDMOTHER!

I SEE...
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT APRIL.
It seems like she also had these kinds of conversation with Mom while I wasn't there.
Where she came from, what her family was like, or even how old she is.

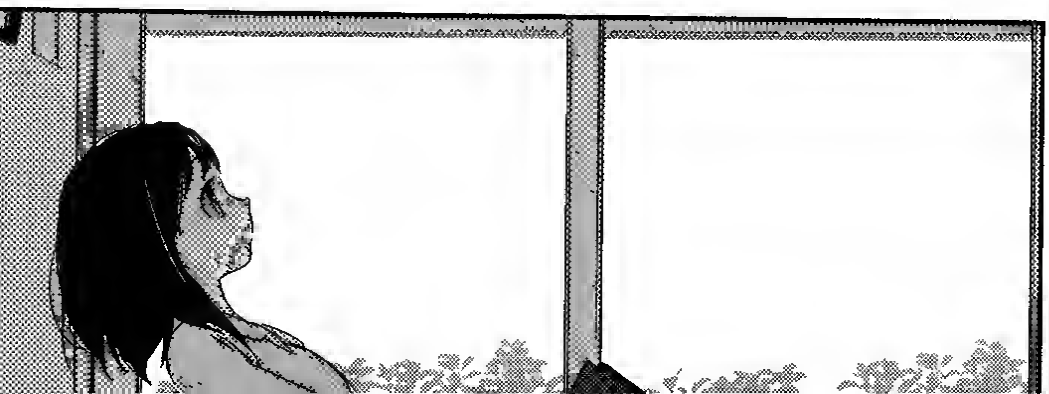
Of course, the one at fault was me since I didn't ask her about any of that.

Mariko is amazing.





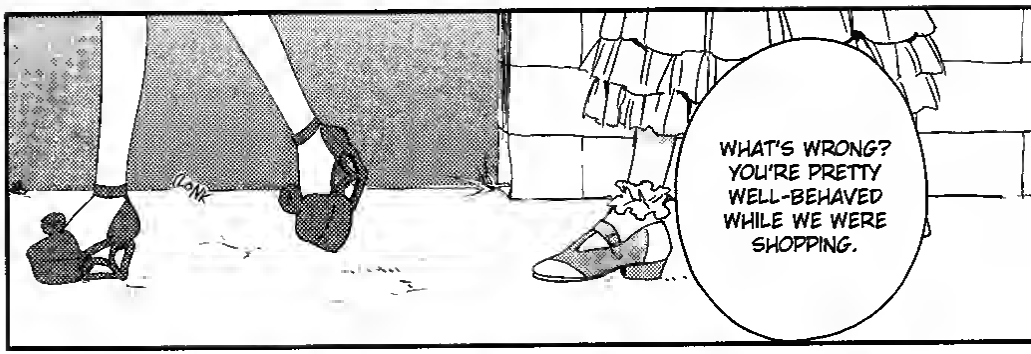
She also listened to a lot of things I had to say.



I wonder what kind of people are vampires?

APRIL-CHAN, GET ALONG WITH HIKARI, ALRIGHT?
WHY DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR APRIL?
AT THE END OF THE DAY, SHE'S JUST A CLUMSY GIRL.
THE ONLY IMPRESSIVE THINGS ABOUT HER ARE HER HEIGHT AND BOOBS.
GET ALONG?

WE WENT LOOKING FOR SHOES BUT ENDED UP BUYING WESTERN CLOTHES AS WELL...


CLONK
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE PRETTY WELL-BEHAVED WHILE WE WERE SHOPPING.

IT'S LIKE DRESSING UP A DOLL
BUT WHY DON'T YOU TRY ON THE BOLERO I BOUGHT TODAY?
I WON'T FORCE YOU TO WEAR THEM IF YOU HATE THEM THAT MUCH.
RUSTLE
ALL RIGHT!

I'VE DECIDED!
DECIDED WHAT?

HIKARI.
I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND.
IT'S NOT EASY TO BECOME BOTH MY SERVANT AND MY FRIEND, YOU KNOW.
WHAT'S WRONG?
REJOICE!
YES, YES. THANK YOU VERY M...

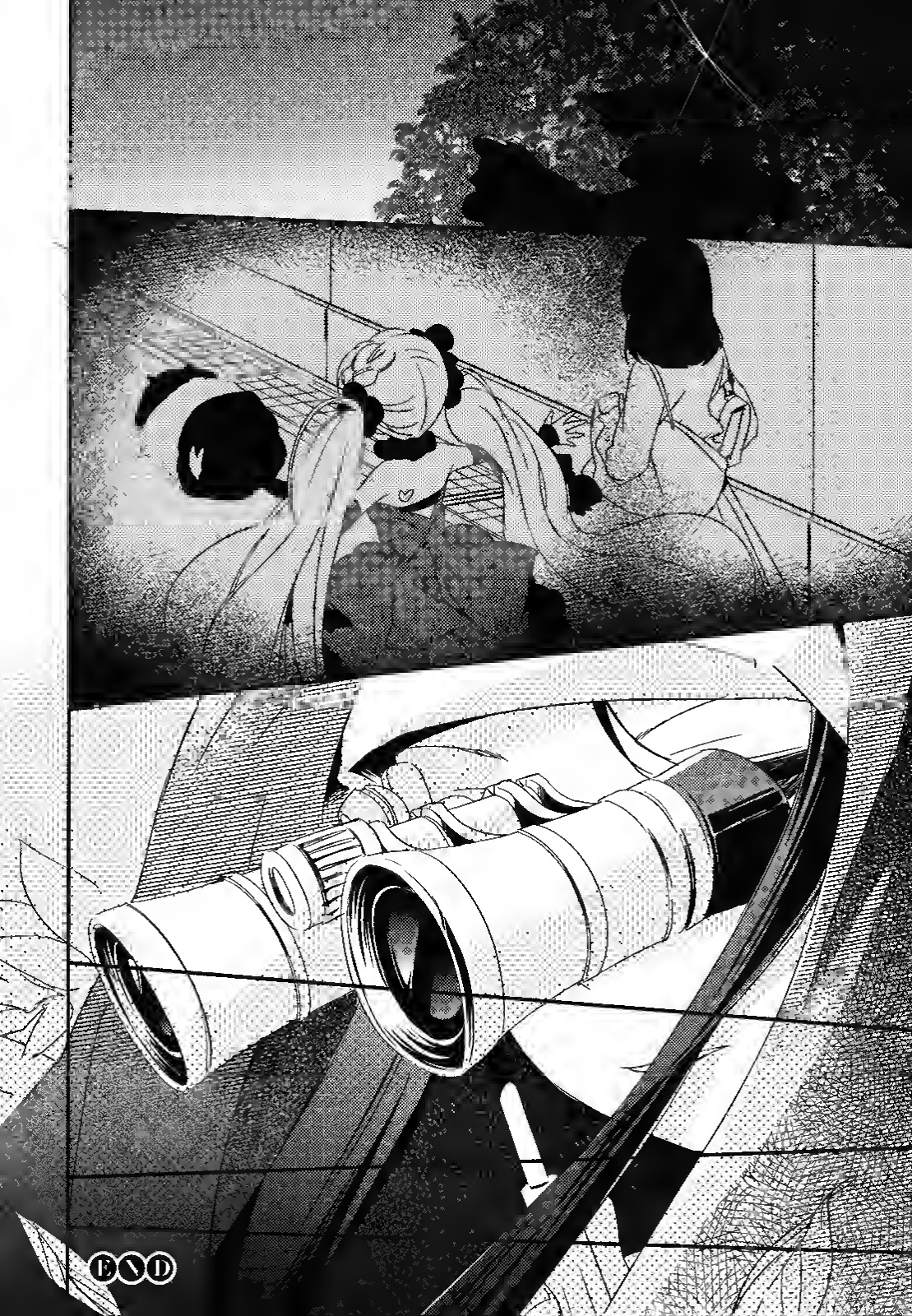
GRIN
BUNYAAAAAAAAAAAA

*Tanuki Japanese raccoon dogs. They're legendary shapeshifter in folklores.

Ow!
BUU-CHAN?!

UWA!! THE TSUBOYAKI PUDDING! MY TSUBOYAKI PUDDING!
YOU PIGGISH CAT!
Bunya
BURP
Munch
Munch
SPEAKING OF WHICH, BUU-CHAN HASN'T EATEN ANYTHING SINCE THIS MORNING.
HE MUST BE HUNGRY.

FUFU.
Giggle
Giggle
AHAHA!
AHAHAHAHA!
LET'S GO HOME!


END

Another Kiss
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chapter 2
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